

CLAIMS

1. A conduit comprising a pipe, an electrical heater extending along the length of the pipe, and a thermally insulating jacket extending around the pipe and heater, wherein the pipe comprises a plastics inner tube, the plastics inner tube being received within a deformable metal tube such that the plastics inner tube and deformable metal tube form a composite double-walled structure.
2. A conduit according to claim 1, wherein the pipe comprises the plastics inner tube, the metal tube, and an outer plastics tube, the metal tube being sandwiched between the inner and outer plastics tubes, and the heater being in contact with the outer plastics tube.
3. A conduit according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the heater is in the form of a cable incorporating longitudinally extending wires between which a heating element is electrically connected, the cable being mounted on the pipe.
4. A conduit according to claim 3, wherein the heating element is in the form of a body of material having a positive temperature coefficient, the wires being embedded in the body of material.
5. A conduit according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the cable is in contact with at least one metal foil adhered to the pipe.
6. A conduit according to claim 5, comprising a metal foil which extends between the cable and the pipe.

7. A conduit according to claim 5 or 6, comprising a metal foil which extends over the cable and on to the pipe on either side of the cable.
8. A conduit according to claim 5, 6 or 7, comprising a metal foil which is wrapped around the cable.
9. A conduit according to any one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the insulating jacket comprises first and second preformed layers mounted on the pipe, the first layer extending around the pipe from side surfaces of the cable and having a thickness substantially the same as the thickness of the cable measured from a lower surface of the cable in contact with the pipe, and the second layer extending over the first layer and an upper surface of the cable remote from the pipe.
10. A conduit according to any one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the insulation comprises a single preformed layer mounted on the pipe, the preformed layer being split longitudinally to define abutting edges which are stepped to accommodate the cable in the space formed being the abutting edges.
11. A conduit according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the heater comprises a tube of material having a positive temperature coefficient supported on the pipe between two metal tubes.
12. A conduit according to claim 11, wherein one of the said tubes of electrically conductive material is defined by the said deformable metal tube in which the plastics inner tube is received.
13. A conduit according to any preceding claim, wherein the or each plastics tube is formed from cross-linked polyethylene.

14. A conduit according to any preceding claim, wherein the or each metal tube is formed from aluminium.
15. A conduit according to any preceding claim, wherein the insulating jacket is formed from one or more preformed tubes of foam.
16. A conduit according to any preceding claim, wherein the pipe is formed from materials such that if bent it retains the shape into which it is bent.
17. A conduit substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 2, 3, 4 or 5 of the accompanying drawings.